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CROP INSURANCE NEWS

Broadcast by John Bird, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Wednesday, April 12, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Program.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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KADDERLY:

John Bird of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has some news about the progress of wheat insurance -- including an announcement that is important to spring wheat growers.

BIRD

Thanks, Wallace. First, here's the announcement. The deadline has been set for payment of premiums on SPRING wheat policies. The last date on which such payments can be received in county Triple-A offices is SATURDAY, April 29.

KADDERLY:

Saturday, April 29. Well, that should give all spring wheat growers who want to insure their harvest plenty of time in which to get all paid up. That's the deadline for advances on Triple-A payments, too, isn't it? I mean the advances that can be collected in order to pay crop insurance premiums.

BIRD:

Yes -- between now and the 29th any grower who is participating or who agrees to participate in the Triple-A program can draw against future payments to finance his crop insurance premium.

KADDERLY:

This April 29 deadline brings the crop insurance program pretty close to the home plate.

BIRD:

It certainly does. The program started last fall with the sign-up of winter wheat growers. Approximately 107,000 winter wheat growers paid the premiums necessary to put their policies into force. And then the program moved into the spring wheat belt. More than 100,000 spring wheat growers have applied for policies. About 20,000 spring wheat growers have already paid their premiums. In other words, around 128,000 wheat growers in 30 states have taken out policies. When the program is all wound up on April 29 we expect more than 150,000 policies will be in force on the 1939 wheat crop.

KADDERLY:

John, I recall that when crop insurance was just starting last year, the program was considered as an experiment. With 150,000 policies in force it would seem that the experiment is getting a thorough trial.

BIRD:

No doubt about that. Of course the best evidence of the feasibility of crop insurance will be turned in as we settle the crop losses suffered by insured farmers. Right now, early losses are being adjusted in the southwestern wheat belt.

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KADDERLY:

You mean some farmers are already collecting on their insurance?

BIRD:

They will soon. In fact, in a few days the first insurance payment will go out -- probably to a Texas wheat grower. When the first loss is settled, I'll give you a report on it -- if you would like to have it.

KADDERLY:

Sure, we'd like to have it. The day the first wheat insurance check goes out will mark a milestone in the history of agriculture in the United States -- and I'm sure the Farm and Home listeners would like to hear the story behind that first check.

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